

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the following arguments.

Claims 1 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ebina. The Applicants appreciate the Examiner for the indicated allowability of Claims 9-13 and the indication that Claims 2-8 would be allowable if rewritten independent form, however this has not been done since all of the claims are believed to be allowable.

Independent Claims 1 and 14 are both directed to a select control system for a vehicle transmission, the select control system comprising a gate mechanism having plural gates, the respective plural gates being selected upon a shift operation, a select position determining mechanism adapted to move along a select direction of the gate mechanism, and select control means for controlling movement of the select position determining mechanism during the shift operation by performing a temporary target gate remaining process in which an actual gate of the gate mechanism temporarily remains at an temporary target gate and moves to a target gate of the gate mechanism. For example, referring to the non-limiting embodiment described in the specification, in a gate mechanism 30 having plural gates the respective plural gates 31, 32, 33, 34 may be selected upon a shift operation. A select position determining mechanism 7 is adapted to move along a select direction of the gate mechanism 30. Select control means 6, 8, controls movement of the select position determining mechanism 7 during a shift operation by performing a temporary target gate remaining process in which an actual gate 31 of the gate mechanism 30 temporarily remains at a temporary target gate 32/33 and then moves to a target gate 34 of the gate mechanism 30 (see paragraph 0032). Compared with the select operation in which the actual gate is moved from the first gate 31 directly to the third gate 33 as the target gate, as illustrated in Fig. 4 (A), according to the embodiment of the present invention, the actual gate can be prevented

from sudden movement, thereby restraining some defects such as overshooting even under a fluctuation of the coefficient of dynamic friction. Therefore, undesired noise due to some defects such as overshooting can be effectively restrained.

Ebina discloses a remote control apparatus for transmission comprising a gate mechanism having plural gates, an auxiliary power means, remote-controlled by a change lever, for changing a gear position, of the transmission, and a control means for controlling an operation of the auxiliary power means. The control means is provided with neutral position holding means which, when the gear is transferred from any one of shift positions to another one provided on a path other than the shift path on which the one shift position exists, holds the gear in neutral position on the same shift path as said one shift position for a predetermined period (col. 3, lines 30-56).

Ebina does not disclose or teach that an operation of the auxiliary power means is slowed down or discontinued during a select operation.

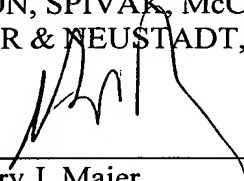
Claims 15-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ebina in view of Backus. Backus discloses an automotive device provided with a fluid pressure operated transmission shifting structure for use on a vehicle having a source of fluid pressure. Likewise as Ebina, Backus does not disclose or even teach that an operation of a select position determining mechanism is slowed down or discontinued during a select operation.

As described above, it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Ebina to employ a select position determining mechanism in view of Backus.

Applicants therefore respectfully submit that all of the claims define over the cited prior art, and respectfully solicit an early notice of allowability.

Respectfully submitted,

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